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AMS BUDGET

(450) PERSONALITY IN THE NEWS

RICHARD HELMS

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CPYRGHT

STATINTL

WASHINGTON, JULY 29 (AP)-RICHARD M. HELMS IS AN EX-NEWSMAN WHO IS MORE IN THE NEWS TODAY THAN HE LIKES--MAINLY BECAUSE HE WROTE A LETTER TO A NEWSPAPER.

AS THE NEW HEAD OF THE SILENT SERVICE--THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY--THE 53-YEAR-OLD HELMS HAS SHUNNED PUBLIC SPEECHMAKING AND INTERVIEWS ON GROUNDS THAT THE CIA'S JOB IS TO PRODUCE INFORMATION FOR THE GOVERNMENT, NOT HEADLINES.

BUT HE ALSO SIGNS LETTER--INCLUDING THE ONE TO THE ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT THAT SET OFF A SENATE FURORE BY COMMENDING AN EDITORIAL WHICH PRAISED THE CIA BUT ALSO RAPPED FOREIGN RELATIONS CHAIRMAN J.W. FULBRIGHT, D-ARK.

HELMS'S QUICK APOLOGY TO FULBRIGHT AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TODAY APPARENTLY CARRIED HIM SAFELY PAST A DEMAND BY SEN. WAYNE MORSE, D-ORE., FOR HIS RESIGNATION.

HELMS'S SPEEDY RESPONSE IN THE AFFAIR POINTS UP PART OF THE REPUTATION HE HAS ACQUIRED AT THE CIA AS A MAN OF FAST ACTION.

AT CIA'S BIG HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN THE VIRGINIA COUNTRYSIDE THE "IN" BASKET ON THE DIRECTOR'S DESK IS REPORTED BARE BY THE END OF MOST WORKING DAYS, NOT STUFFED WITH PAPERS STILL AWAITING DECISION.

HIS REPUTATION AT CIA IS ALSO THAT OF A DEDICATED PROFESSIONAL, A CAREER MAN WHO ROSE THROUGH INTELLIGENCE RANKS TO THE TOP POST USUALLY FILLED BY BIG-NAME APPOINTEES FROM OUTSIDE THE AGENCY.

WHEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON PICKED HELMS JUNE 18 TO SUCCEED ADM. WILLIAM F. RABORN AS INTELLIGENCE CHIEF, HELMS HAD PUT IN 24 YEARS OF HUSH-HUSH WORK FOR UNCLE SAM BEGINNING AS A NAVAL OFFICER IN WORLD WAR II.

HIS NAVY STINT INCLUDED DUTY WITH THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES, THE WARTIME OUTFIT WHICH WAS SUCCEEDED BY CIA AS THE PRINCIPAL U. S. RESEARCH AND CLOAK-AND-DAGGER AGENCY FOR GATHERING INTELLIGENCE AROUND THE WORLD.

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HELMS' FIRST PROFESSIONAL VENTURE WAS INTO JOURNALISM AFTER HE GRADUATED FROM WILLIAMS COLLEGE IN 1935. HE WORKED FOR UNITED PRESS AS A CORRESPONDENT IN GERMANY, THEN BECAME NATIONAL ADVERTISING MANAGER ON THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES.

BORN AT ST. DAVID'S PA., MARCH 30, 1913 AND REARED IN SOUTH ORANGE, N. J., HELMS PICKED UP A GOOD KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH AND GERMAN AFTER HIS FATHER, AN ALUMINUM COMPANY EXECUTIVE, SENT HIM TO HIGH SCHOOL FOR A YEAR EACH IN SWITZERLAND AND GERMANY.

A DEPUTY DIRECTOR AT CIA SINCE 1947, HELMS HAS HELD A SERIES OF RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND ON UNDISCLOSED ASSIGNMENTS OVERSEAS. HE WAS THE NO. 2 MAN UNDER RABORN.

A TRIM 6-FOOT-1 167 POUNDS, HELMS DOES NOT GET OUT FOR HIS FAVORITE SPORT -- TENNIS-- AS MUCH NOW AS HE COULD BEFORE. HE STILL PLAYS ON WEEKENDS.

HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER JULIA BRETZMAN SHIELDS OF INDIANAPOLIS. THEY HAVE A SON, DENNIS, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LAW SCHOOL.

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